(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new investment pattern accepted by EPFO for its accumulated funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has not taken any decision on investment of fund under Provident Fund in share market so far. Under the existing pattern of investment as notified by the Government on 09-07-2003 Provident Fund accumulations can be invested in Government Securities, Government Guaranteed Securities, Bonds/Securities of Public Financial Institutions, short duration Term Deposit Receipt of Public Sector Banks and Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligation subject to the terms and conditions mentioned therein.

Ban on retired supervisors to be elected as an office bearer of a union

1482. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any bar for 'retired supervisor of an industrial unit' to be elected as office bearer of a recognised union and negotiate with the management; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) There is no bar for 'retired supervisor of an industrial unit' to be elected as an office bearer of a recognized union and negotiate with the management under the provisions of Section 22 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and if constitution bye-laws of the Trade Union, approved by the Registrar of Trade Union, provides for the same.

(b) Does not arise.

Minimum wages to contract and casual workers

1483. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-muster-roll and casual workers appointed in the Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(b) the details of minimum wages paid to them;

(c) the mechanism put in place to ensure payment of minimum wages to the contract and casual workers through the labour contractors or outsourcing agencies;

(d) whether Government has formulated any policy for regularisation of above workers including contract workers; and